



April 7, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chairman, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Ste. 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 470 (Valencia) Continuing medical education: physicians and surgeons – Support as amended March 13, 2023

Dear Chairman Holden,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write to you in continued support of AB 470, which would allow healthcare professionals to better understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with their patients from diverse backgrounds.

California is a minority-majority state, with many Californians having a wide variety of ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Because of these demographics, at least 43% of Californians speak another language other than English. Additionally, it was noted in a report by the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative that there are only 62.1 Spanish-speaking physicians per 100,000 Spanish-speaking patients. This creates a disparity between the number of physicians who speak foreign languages and patients where English is their second language. We must address this disparity in order for physicians to better understand their patients' needs and to provide the best care.

AB 470 would expand access to quality foreign language courses that would be offered to physicians, in addition to their preexisting Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements, to improve their linguistic competency. This bill will reaffirm the importance of cultural competency and language fluency by encouraging physicians to take foreign language courses that are offered through CME providers.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to continue to support AB 470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assemblymember Avelino Valencia